

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

Claims 1- 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for estimating software project requirements, said method steps comprising:

computing a validity ratio for defects in an open state;

computing a fix rate for a team; and

analyzing a software defect backlog that includes the defects in the open state, using the computed validity ratio and the computed fix rate;

wherein the step of computing a validity ratio includes steps of adding numbers of defects in working, verify, and closed states, to provide a first sum; adding the numbers of defects in the working, verify, and closed states and a number of defects in a canceled state, to provide a second sum; and dividing the first sum by the second sum, to provide the validity ratio.

Claim 11 (original): The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the validity ratio is computed using defect census data read from a defect census data repository.

Claim 12 (original): The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the fix rate is computed using team performance census data read from a team performance census data repository.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The program storage device of claim ~~43~~ 10, wherein the step of computing a fix rate includes steps of adding the number of defects in the closed state and the number of defects in the verify state, to provide a third sum; and dividing the third sum by a number of working days, to provide the fix rate.

Claim 15 (original): The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the step of analyzing a software defect backlog includes a step of computing a drain date for the backlog, using the validity ratio and the fix rate.

Claim 16 (original): The program storage device of claim 15, wherein the step of computing a drain date includes steps of multiplying the number of defects in the open state by the validity ratio, to provide a product; adding the product to the number of defects in the working state, to provide work left; dividing the work left by the fix rate, to provide days left; and adjusting the days left for non-working days, to provide the drain date.

Claim 17 (original): The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the step of analyzing a software defect backlog includes a step of computing a capacity of a team to fix defects, using the validity ratio and the fix rate.

Claim 18 (original): The program storage device of claim 17, wherein the step of computing a capacity includes steps of multiplying a number of working days by the fix rate, to provide a product; and dividing the product by the validity ratio, to provide the capacity.

Claims 19 - 21 (canceled)